



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**  
**MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**WORK SESSION – RULES**

Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
1:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/99161602018?pwd=U2hWNXg5Nk1ObER0RDRrdmZxaTNIQT09>

Password: **4pTzCF**

Phone: (216) 706-7075  
Or (866) 390-1828 (US Toll Free)  
Conference code: 394127

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association  
Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society  
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association  
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League  
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal  
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union  
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:**

Dan Hammerbrg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division  
Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division/Recording Secretary  
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal (virtual meeting moderator)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Adam Carroll, Hartland Deerfield Fire Department	David Pelton, Walker Fire Department
Andy Down, Long lake Twp. Fire Department	Joseph Grutza, Retired
Aric Massingill, Adrian Fire Department	Jim Fisher, Gerrish Twp. Fire Department
Bill Parker, Northwest RFTC	Jim Peterson, Macomb Twp. Fire Department
Bill Pawluk, Lansing Community College Fire	Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Brandon Hausbeck, Saginaw Twp. Fire Department	Kurt Corradi, Bay City Fire Department
Brian Marquardt, Eastpointe Fire Department	Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College RTC
Bryan Kukla, Frankenlust Twp. Fire Department	Lisa Hoffer, Keystone Solutions
Chip Everett, Portage Public Safety	Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department
Chris Coughlin, Midland Fire Department	Mark Nicolai, Muskegon Twp. Fire Department
Christopher Van Loo, Saginaw Fire Department	Michael McLeieer, Michigan State Firemens Assoc.
Corey Miller, Berkley Dept. Of Public Safety	Michael Yanz, NIESA
Dan Besson, Leland Twp. Fire Department	Mike Cousins, Thomas Twp. Fire Department

Mike Keefe, Allendale Fire Department  
Philip Duczynski, Novi Fire Department  
Rob Ginther, Beverly Hills Dept. Of Public Safety

Robert Vogel, South Lyon Fire Department  
Scott Damon, Cambridge Twp Fire Department  
Thea Dornbush, Muskegon Twp. Fire Department

## **I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:**

Before **Chairperson Tackett** called the special meeting to order, Andrea Keown from the Bureau of Fire Services, Fire Fighting Training Division read the following:

*"I have just a brief house-keeping announcement to make. Due to logistical and storage issues, the Board will no longer be recording these remote meetings. However, if you would like to record the meeting using the Zoom software, please just let us know using the chat function, and we will turn that feature on for you. Unfortunately, due to limitations with the software, we are not able to set this up for everyone automatically. It needs to be done manually for each person. Yet please also note that you are free to continue to record these meetings yourself by any other means you wish. Nothing has changed in that regard. There are no recording restrictions for these meetings. But if you choose to use the Zoom software we are providing for you, again, unfortunately, we must manually turn that feature on for you. We apologize for the inconvenience."*

**Chairperson Tackett** then announced a roll call vote will be done for any motion put forth to council during this meeting and read the following introduction to everyone in the virtual meeting:

*"In order to minimize disruptions, until the time designated by the Council for public comment, members of the public will be muted to the Council and other attendees and participants. During the time designated by the Council for public comment, members of public will no longer be muted and may participate and provide their comments by orderly speaking using the microphone on their phone. All existing Council rules regarding public comment (including rules designed to minimize disruptions and allow for full public participation) still apply."*

*All quorum rules still apply. In the event of a disconnection caused by the meeting host, the Council will be considered to be in recess. Every effort will be made to reestablish a publicly accessible connection. If the host is unable to do so within a period of 30 minutes from the time of the disconnection, the Council will adjourn and not address any new business until its next meeting. Any decisions made prior to the disconnection will be binding. The Council will not recess or adjourn due to technical or other issues experienced by individual members of the public that render them unable to attend or participate in the meeting."*

**Chairperson Tackett** called the special meeting session to order at 1:31 PM, a roll call was taken

Chairperson Tackett – present  
Councilperson Blomstrom – present  
Councilperson Styles – present  
Councilperson White – present  
Councilperson Blackmer – present  
Councilperson Janik – present  
Councilperson Steichen – present  
Councilperson Pettinger – present  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – present

A quorum was determined present.

## **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**20-08-03**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the August 11th, 2020 regular meeting agenda, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - yes

Nine votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **20-08-04**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve the following minutes as presented:

June 4, 2020 Special Meeting  
June 9, 2020 Regular Meeting  
June 9, 2020 Special Meeting  
June 25, 2020 Special Meeting  
July 9, 2020 Special Meeting

No roll call vote was taken on the above motion as Councilperson Janik made the Motion below.

#### **20-08-05**

A **MOTION** by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to change a typo on the June 4<sup>th</sup> minutes that will need to be corrected before posting minutes.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - yes

Nine votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **IV. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Fire Marshal Sehlmeier:** As mentioned during the work session that he finally received the MAFC letter addressed to Council dated August 4, 2020.

### **V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:**

1. **COVID-19 Updates:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier informed everyone about the new Executive Orders:

Executive Order [2020-159](#) now allows colleges and universities to address social distancing and use space that is typically not used for instructional space (i.e., field houses, student center, etc.) for instructional learning. This Executive Order waives the long process of getting those

types of facilities to be approved for instructional learning. This Executive Order expires at the end of the emergency declaration.

Executive Order [2020-160](#) now prohibits any indoor social gatherings of more than 10 people statewide. We are allowed to continue to do training with the precautions of screening participants, health checks at the door, and wearing masks.

Executive Order [2020-162](#) is an Amendment to Executive Order 2020-160, The restriction described in section 1 of Executive Order 2020-160 does not apply in Regions 6 and 8. Instead, in Regions 6 and 8, any work that is capable of being performed remotely (i.e., without the worker leaving his or her home or place of residence) should be performed remotely.

## **2. Legislative Updates**

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier spoke about House Bill 4792 that is being generated out of the upper peninsula regarding unattended fueling, if this were to pass it would mean that gas stations could just turn on their pumps, they would not have to have anyone working there and you could fuel your vehicle. In the tank rules, we do not allow unattended fueling in the state of Michigan. There always has to be an attendant present. There is a carve out in the current tank rules allowing some commercial fueling centers to allow for unattended pumps, however Fire Services is opposed to the Bill. Wants to send a big thank you to all the fire service organizations showing support for their opposition of House Bill 4792.

A house bill that passed that was signed by the Governor that goes in to effect on October 6, 2020 that changes PA 291, by amending [Section 29.369](#) stating that you cannot train with Class B AFFF foam.

## **3. Class B AFFF Collection Program:**

- a. Total gallons collected:
  - i. As of 8/10/2020: 42,564
  - ii. Collected last week 8/3/20 through 8/7/20: 410
- b. Total gallons remaining to be collected: 5,655
- c. Deadline extended through the end of September.

4. **Fire Officer I Roll Out:** Fire Marshall Sehlmeier explained that we (BFS) have learned a lot during this process. We ended up with 19 students from all over Michigan. We tried to divide it up evenly into a third of students from career departments, a third from combination (paid/on call) departments, and a third from volunteer departments. We have over 80 people who applied to the program. The feedback from student has been positive. They liked the process and found the J&B platform easy to use. With that being said, virtual Fire Officer I is definitely an option that we should move forward. I think we can roll out an Officer II rather quickly after this. We expect to announce the Train the Trainer around the middle of September and hold it around October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **5. CTC Training Needs Survey for FY21:**

- a. Reminder was sent via email to CTCs last week. The [information](#) was also sent out on GovDelivery.
- b. Fire Department Surveys due to CTC's by 9/10/20.
- c. CTC training needs due to BFS by 9/25/20.
- d. Requirement per PA 291 to receive funding
- e. Must be NFIRS compliant.

6. **Wednesday Wrap-Up:** Fire marshal confirmed that Wednesday Wrap-Up's will continue bi-weekly through the end of October.

7. **2020 Fatal Fires:** As of August 5, 2020 there have been 84 fire related deaths. We have got the \$250,000 that the state and LARA gave us towards the effort of reducing fire fatalities this year.

We have bought fire alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, Nest detectors that will go to families with disabilities as well as bed shakers. We are also using some of those funds to produce informational videos on how the fire service can best interact with people that have disabilities.

8. **Revised Course Summary:** The fire marshal provided council with a revised Course Summary was ran on Monday and has been posted on the Training Division webpage. The Fire Marshal noted the Course Summary that was provided to council and reiterated the importance of chiefs keeping their rosters up to date, so the statistics are as accurate as possible. If anyone has any questions on anything, please reach out to Dan Hammerberg or Fire Marshal Sehlmeier.
9. **Funding Balance as of 8/11/2020:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier conveyed that due to Covid-19, there has been money coming back because of cancelled courses, we will fund every single project that council has set money aside for.

#### **VI. CURRICULUM WORK GROUP REPORT:**

**Councilperson Blomstrom** conveyed that there is no reason for the curriculum work group to meet until BFS gets working on a fire officer II exam.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Draft Rules to Michigan Office Of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR):** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier mentioned at the last rules work session, council talked about where they were at with the rules process, so this was a place holder in the event council felt they were in a place to vote to move the rules forward to MOAHR.

**20-08-06**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and supported by **Councilperson Pettinger** to take the rules document as it is currently and move them on to MOAHR.

Chairperson Tackett – no  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – no  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – no  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Six votes yes, three votes no. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2. **Fire Officer I&II:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier spoke on the success of the pilot virtual fire officer I course and with evolving learning platforms and the ongoing Covid-19 situation, he is looking for support from the council to allow the Bureau of Fire Services to move forward with a separate virtual fire officer I & II that minimally meets the NFPA 1021 objectives and Job Performance Requirements.

**20-08-07**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and supported by **Chairperson Chad Tackett** to move forward with separate fire officer I, fire officer II virtual courses

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes

Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Nine votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- 3. FY21 Funding:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that the \$2.3 million is doable with the budget. Reminds council that \$80,000 comes off the top for joint council before we divide the money based on Motion 20-06-09 from the June council meeting and every county will get \$17,500.

**20-08-08**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and supported by **Chairperson Tackett** to request to allocate \$2.3 million for Fiscal Year 2021 for Fire Fighter Training.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Nine votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- 4. COVID/Fire Training:** Fire marshal shared that he has been getting a lot of phone calls from counties regarding how we move ahead with training during Covid-19 and going forward if hybrid (face to face with virtual) options will be available to those who wish to utilize that means of course delivery.

**20-08-09**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and supported by **Chairperson Tackett** to allow fire fighter I& II with HazMat ops to be done virtually flowing a recognized virtual platform using IFSTA or Jones & Bartlett with the ability to have interactive time along with physical meeting times while following the most current Executive Order guidelines.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White – yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Nine votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- 5. MRFTC Pilot Hybrid Firefighter I&II Course:** Bill Parker thanked council for allowing this to be on the agenda, the overall proposed course is trying to incorporate a mix of the virtual and not losing the in person portion of the class. Fire Marshal conveyed that this hybrid course would fall under Motion 20-08-09 above, therefore should not require a separate vote since council

already voted to approve hybrid courses. Bill Parker agreed that this course falls in line with everything that was discussed in the previous motion. Council agreed that a separate vote is not necessary.

- 6. Schoolcraft College RTC Hybrid Firefighter I&II Course:** Liam Carroll mirrored Bill Parker that his course also falls under Motion 20-08-09. Council agreed that a separate vote is not necessary.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Rob Ginther, Beverly Hills Public Safety:** Appreciates everything council does. He submitted his Q Course applications in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, however, is disappointment with not having his ten (10) Q Courses on the August agenda. Was really hoping to get the courses funded and feels the opportunity is missed now. Thanked council for all the hard work they are doing.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier apologized for the oversight by the bureau and explained to Mr. Ginther that funds for courses are released on October 1<sup>st</sup> and funds do not have to be encumbered until December 31<sup>st</sup> so the funds for the Q Courses will be there. Fire marshal confirmed we have the course applications and guarantees that the ten Q courses will be on the Agenda for the October council meeting.

#### **X. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

**Councilperson Tackett:** Echoes Councilperson Steichen about how Fire Marshal Sehlmeier puts in a lot of time and care and cares about fire services as a whole. Kudos to you and your staff for all the hours you put forth. Thanks council for all the effort they have put forth.

**Councilperson Blomstrom:** Echoes what councilperson Blackmer and Pettinger said about the document and the process. It was a good feeling to be able to make the motion to have the rules move forward and also to have the feeling that council did a good job. Council listened to what constituents and other organizations had to say and made changes where council felt was necessary. At the very end it is what benefits the fire services and the right decision to move it forward was made today. Very happy that we are at the point to move it on.

**Councilperson Styles:** Glad we are moving forward and will continue to go on.

**Councilperson White:** Thanked everyone for attending everything and is happy where we are.

**Councilperson Blackmer:** Missed the morning session but was able to hear public comment and differing opinions. Wanted to say that he received a lot of phone calls from people who were in different organizations and listened to each one open mindedly and had really good dialogue with these people. Feels the document is good for the fire service, may not have every detail that every firefighter wants, but overwhelmingly, it is a good document that helps the fire services. Excited about the online courses rolling. Does not think that the online courses are going to replace the traditional academies.

**Councilperson Janik:** Grateful for all the council members and the work they have done and for the associations and organizations that have put us back on track and is truly grateful. Thankful to the state fire marshal for being receptive to change along with the council members to work towards a consensus driven document. Happy to be at this point. Thanks everyone.

**Councilperson Steichen:** Excited about getting through this lengthy process. A lot of the feedback was great and really appreciates the fire marshal and all his efforts over the past two years. Thanks everyone on the board and thanks everyone that attends the meetings and provides feedback.

**Councilperson Pettinger:** Thank you everyone for their input over the last 43 meetings. We listened to all the different organizations and tried to get input from everyone. Appreciates all the council for all the work that everyone has done. Feels proud of the document council moved forward today.

**Fire Marshal Sehlmeier:** Thanks everyone on council for all their hard work. Appreciates that the fire service is reaching out to council and that they feel more comfortable with reaching out. We are moving forward; we have a lot of great stuff still to do in the state of things that are going to change and things we are going to learn. Thanks council for being open to these ideas and the hours you are and have been putting in.

**d) ADJOURNMENT:**

**20-08-10**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White – yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:16 PM

**APPROVED:**

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Chairperson Tackett

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Councilmember